

Joel Barlow High School - Message to Athlete

Being a member of a Joel Barlow athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad of Joel Barlow High School, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school, and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years our squads have achieved more than their share of league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-Conference and All-State honors.

It is not easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the colors of your school, we assume that you not only understand our tradition, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

Responsibility to Yourself: The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experience. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

Responsibility to Your School: Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Joel Barlow cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on the athletic squad. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Joel Barlow proud of you and your community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

Responsibility to Others: As a squad member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything for which to be ashamed, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability everyday, and that you have played the game "all out," you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you. The younger students in the Easton/Redding school system are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.